

Audit of CIA Controls On Stingers Proposed

Lawmakers Fear Diversion to Terrorists

By David B. Ottaway
Washington Post Staff Writer

Two lawmakers are pressing for an audit of CIA methods for controlling delivery of sophisticated Stinger missiles to anticommunist rebels in Angola and Afghanistan following a report that some were found in the hands of arms traffickers arrested in Zambia.

Sen. Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz.), a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, said Wednesday that he is joining with Rep. William H. Gray III (D-Pa.), chairman of the House Budget Committee, to demand that the Central Intelligence Agency submit to an audit by the General Accounting Office.

The CIA has consistently refused to allow the GAO, Congress' main investigating agency, to examine its activities, arguing that it is accountable only to the Senate and House intelligence committees.

"My great concern is about the CIA use of these weapons and what security they implement," DeConcini said, releasing declassified sections of a GAO report on measures taken by the CIA and Defense Department to ensure that Stinger and Redeye antiaircraft missiles do not fall into terrorist hands.

The report said U.S. safeguards

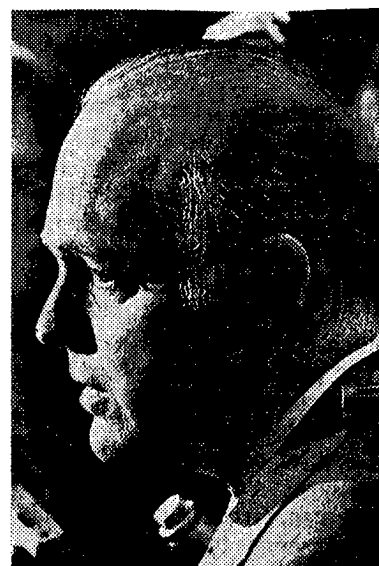
for Stinger and Redeye missiles sold to allies had improved in recent years. But the report did not deal with those sent to U.S.-supported anticommunist groups and noted that many of the shoulder-fired, heat-seeking missiles had been sold before inventory controls were implemented.

DeConcini said he had no information other than the incident in Zambia to indicate Stingers had reached the black market. His aides provided a report from the March 2 issue of Defense and Foreign Affairs Weekly that said Stingers had been seized from a group of bandits caught in Zambia.

The report said the Stingers were apparently obtained via Zaire from Jonas Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), which the United States has been aiding through a covert program since early last year.

Aides said they had been told by Pentagon officials that "there was reason for concern" about the report but had not been given additional details.

DeConcini said he does not oppose sending Stingers to the Afghan and Angolan guerrilla forces, but is worried that the missiles might end up on the black market for purchase by terrorists who want to shoot down a commercial airliner.



SEN. DENNIS DeCONCINI
... describes concern about missiles

He said he would oppose, however, supplying Stingers to U.S.-backed rebels fighting the Sandinista government in Nicaragua. He said there was "no question in my mind" that the administration was considering supplying the contra rebels with Stingers if Congress votes additional aid for them next fiscal year.

DeConcini said he and Gray would probably join in writing a letter to the CIA after a briefing the agency is planning to give the House budget chairman next week.

Gray is also involved in negotiations with the CIA over an earlier request of his that the GAO investigate allegations that substantial amounts of money voted by Congress to purchase arms for the Afghan resistance movement were diverted elsewhere.

The CIA is also refusing to cooperate in that GAO investigation.

DeConcini said that if the CIA continued to refuse to cooperate in the Stinger inquiry he would either seek to have the Senate intelligence committee begin an investigation or propose an amendment establishing tighter controls over the missiles.